

10/762,686

Amendment to the Description:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

A known dental restoration piece is disclosed in DE 41 33 690. In connection with this known dental restoration piece, plastic finished partial crowns and bite surfaces are used, which are applied as an integral entirety onto the base structure. After the application of these components (which may be referred to as "over structure") onto the base structure, the plastic semi-finished component or over structure is hardened via irradiation with ultraviolet, or UV, light, so that a corrected bite surface is thus made available. Such bite surfaces are comparatively soft. At the same time, intensive hand finishing work of such bite surfaces is required to configure the bite surfaces into configurations which simulate the dental structures which are to be restored and the dental restoration piece which is produced by this approach is heavily dependent upon the capability of the dentist or, as the occasion may be, upon the capability of the dental technician, to produce the desired tooth protuberance shape.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

Moreover, finished elements for the production of dental restoration pieces are already known as is disclosed, for example, in ~~DE-CI-198-50-451~~ US 6,250,926. The approach disclosed in this publication is suitable for the creation of a dental restoration piece, which is configured by covering a metal frame with an opaque covering and thereafter applying thereon a layer of dentin material ceramic. The dental restoration piece precisely establishes the shape of [[the]] incisal surfaces. The ceramic layer, or coating, which is configured in approximation of the dentin, must have an exact shape so that no orientation errors can arise. Via the application of two layers or coatings, an aesthetic corresponding result can be achieved; however, a decidedly precise handling of the piece is required in order to assuredly prevent the creation of dental positioning errors.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

In this manner, the time for producing an individual optimized bite surface can be significantly reduced and, as well, the dental restoration piece result provides an improved configuration. The dentist need only, after placement of the teeth, for example, in an articulator, work or handle the interconnecting material such that the interconnecting material extends to and communicates in a flush manner with the edges of the bite surface element or the bite surface elements. It is to be understood that, via the making ready of different bite surface elements, different teeth or tooth shapes can be realized as well. For example, a relatively pronounced convex shape of the bite surface elements typically creates a large intercoronary free space, i.e. - the space between the teeth in the occlusal state.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

As can be seen in FIG. 1, a dental region which is to be restored - in this example, the lower jaw side tooth region - is initially prepared in a conventional manner whereupon,

for example, the incisor teeth tooth posts 34, 36 and 37 remain. A model is prepared in a conventional manner and is preferably prepared out of super hard gypsum. A base structure is created in a conventional manner based upon the model. The base structure serves as a basis for building the dental restoration piece and basically gives the strength to allow mounting of the restoration piece. Usually, it is fully covered; thus not visible. However, in view of the translucent property of the "over structure", its color etc. has an influence on the esthetic presentation of the dental restoration piece as well. The base structure can be disposed into an articulator or, alternatively, can be disposed for fitment testing purposes onto the incisor teeth tooth posts.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the present invention, an interconnecting material 10 is applied, as seen in FIG. 2, onto the base structure (not shown in FIG. 2), wherein the interconnecting material already is in substantially the shape of the subsequent dental restoration. The interconnecting material 10, which is applied onto the base structure, is applied in a still-deformable or malleable condition. The inventive bite elements are now pressed into the interconnecting material 10, whereby, as seen in FIG. 2, three bite elements, 12, 14 and 16 are applied onto the tooth VII, and single bite element 18 is applied to the interconnecting material 10 on tooth IV.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

While in the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, a molar VII is provided with the bite elements 12, 14 and [18], a molar VII shown in FIG. 3 is provided with four tooth protuberances 12, 14, 16, and 20 - that is, four correspondingly configured bite elements are provided. In this modified embodiment, the positions of the bite elements in-situ are initially maintained via silicone; the assembly of the frame follows thereafter.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

It is to be understood that, even if the base structure and over structure must be compatibly configured relative to one another, a certain parallelism is possible in connection with their production, which further saves time. The production of the frame for the base structure can be seen in FIG. 4. In this embodiment, the bite surface elements are fixedly mounted in an operation involving the silicone break down agent 22 and the securement onto the incisor teeth tooth posts then follows with light-hardenable plastic being applied in a conventional manner to extend up to the preparation borders.